

Home Depot, and all who made Renaissance Veterans Apartments possible, and I thank them for serving our community.

REMEMBERING RICHARD TRUMKA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, Richard Trumka dedicated his life to elevating workers in America. During his tenure as President of AFL-CIO, he proudly represented the interests of more than 12 million union members, fighting with unbridled passion and persistence to achieve fair hours, living wages, and better working conditions for all. Every American, union member or not, owes him a debt of gratitude for his tireless advocacy and commitment to building a more equitable, more just workforce and economy.

Richard was a remarkable leader. This is evident from the enormous legacy of accomplishment he leaves behind and by the respect he garnered from the people he worked with and on behalf of. I had the immense privilege of knowing Richard on a personal level. And as exceptional of a leader as he was, he was an equally exemplary person—one who was deeply committed to his family, his community, and his country. That kind of selflessness defined Richard's life and career—that same spirit will define his legacy, too.

Richard was taken from us entirely too soon. And there are no words to ease the pain of this tragic loss, especially for his family and loved ones. But Richard will never truly leave us. His legacy will live on for generations to come, as a shining example of leadership and true public service. May his memory be a blessing.

KATE COOKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kate Cooke of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. Kate has exemplified these qualities and more with her work as a champion of small business. By helping to grow local small businesses, Kate has helped contribute to what makes Wheat Ridge unique while also benefiting our local economy and enhancing our community.

Congratulations to Kate Cooke for her contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

IN RECOGNITION OF AVOCA BOROUGH ON ITS SESQUICENTENIAL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Avoca Borough, Pennsylvania as its residents celebrate its 150th anniversary of incorporation.

On May 24, 1871, Avoca Borough, then known as Pleasant Valley, was officially incorporated after splitting from the nearby Pittston Township. Governed by three councilmen, Pleasant Valley was a booming community with four railroads, four churches, a board of trade, a school, and a fire company.

In 1889, residents wanted to move the Marr Post Office to a more central location in the community. With another borough in the Commonwealth already claiming the name Pleasant Valley, the United States Postal Service rejected their request, but the citizens were undeterred. They requested a name change to Avoca through the Luzerne County Court after the Avoca Hose Company. The court granted their request, and the name was officially changed.

The twentieth century saw growth and prosperity for Avoca, and as the population grew, so did the needs of the community. In 1905, a group of Avoca's most enterprising citizens met to discuss the need for a town bank, and on April 1, 1907, the First National Bank of Avoca opened on Main Street. In the early 1920s, schools were struggling to accommodate the number of students due to a steadily increasing population. In 1925, the Avoca School Board finalized plans for a four-year high school building, which was completed in time for the 1926 school year.

Avoca has always been home to patriotic Americans who valiantly served their country and sought to give back to their community. In 1931, a group of ex-service members organized the American Legion McPhillips-Widdall Post, and in 1946, Avoca veterans formed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8335. Both organizations supported civic and athletic programs in Avoca.

Like many communities in the area, coal mining was the primary driver of the local economy. Many residents supported their families with careers in the mines, but the industry proved to be unsustainable. As the coal mining industry began to decline in the 1940s, the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton Airport was constructed, which would become a flourishing regional hub for travel throughout the Northeast. Through the 1950s, the anthracite coal mining industry continued its decline, forcing Avoca residents to relocate for more viable employment.

Today, Avoca remains a tight-knit community with thriving local businesses and a true small-town atmosphere. I am honored to join with Mayor Bob Mullen, Parade Grand Marshals Chris Van Luvender and Bob Matthews, Anniversary Committee President Kelly O'Brien, and all the residents of Avoca in celebrating the Borough's 150th anniversary. May the Borough continue to see growth and prosperity over the next 150 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, due to a personal matter, I missed a vote on September 20, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 262.

EUGENE KAHNG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eugene Kahng of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Annual Council Partnership Award.

The award is given to a member of the Wheat Ridge community that has demonstrated dedication, service and leadership to the local community. Eugene owns and manages the Colorado + brew pub in Wheat Ridge, which has become a favorite among Wheat Ridge residents since its opening. Eugene's contribution to the community will be recognized by members of the Wheat Ridge City Council during the awards reception.

Congratulations to Eugene Kahng for his contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING JOHN AND TASHA HOLBEN AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Tasha Holben, letter carriers for the United States Postal Service and proud union members, as Iowans of the Week. John has faced the rain, wind, heat, and snow for 37 years to ensure the residents of Council Bluffs receive their mail in a timely manner. His wife, Tasha, has done the same for 17 years. I am proud to honor their dedication and years of service.

Working families like John and Tasha's keep Iowa's communities strong. They put in the hours every week to get the job done, serving their neighbors and advocating for fellow workers along the way. As letter carriers in southwest Iowa—where so many families rely heavily on the mail for critical needs like prescription drugs, income, and supplies for their small business—the impact of their efforts is amplified.

John and Tasha are long-time members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC). John has been a member of the union his entire career, serving in various leadership roles for NALC Branch 314 such as president, officer, Sergeant at Arms, and now trustee. Tasha has also been an active member of Branch 314 and has served in several officer roles. As active union leaders, they've helped bargain collectively for decent wages